



a programme of the KAGEDEV Cameroon National Representation

S E T T L I N G I N

Housing Guide

2026 Edition

Finding housing in Germany,
step by step

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SETTLING IN GERMANY

Finding and securing your housing

Finding housing is one of the first steps of your arrival in Germany. This guide explains the types of housing, where to look, how to understand the costs, which documents to prepare, and how to avoid scams. Campus Allemagne supports you as you settle in.

1. Types of housing

- **Shared flat (WG, Wohngemeinschaft):** the most common and most affordable solution; you share an apartment and its costs with others.
- **Student residence (Studentenwohnheim):** managed by the Studentenwerk, affordable but with waiting lists; apply very early.
- **Studio or apartment (Wohnung):** more independence, but more expensive and harder to secure without a solid file.
- **Temporary housing:** a short-term furnished room (Zwischenmiete) for your first weeks, while you find stable housing.

2. Where to look

- Specialized platforms such as WG-Gesucht, ImmobilienScout24, or Kleinanzeigen.
- The Studentenwerk of your city for student residences.
- Mutual aid groups and networks of students and the local French-speaking community.
- Word of mouth: host company, school, local contacts.

3. Understanding the costs

Term	What it means
Kaltmiete	Rent excluding costs (cold rent).
Nebenkosten	Additional costs: water, heating, common areas.
Warmmiete	Rent including costs (warm rent): Kaltmiete + Nebenkosten.
Kaution	The security deposit, often two to three months of cold rent, refunded at the end.

Rents vary significantly by city. Also budget for the security deposit on entry, in addition to the first month's rent.

4. Documents to prepare

- ID document or passport.
- Ausbildung contract, admission letter, or employment contract.
- Proof of income or proof of means of subsistence.
- Credit standing certificate (SCHUFA), often requested (it is applied for locally).
- Insurance confirmation and German bank details once opened.

5. On arrival

- **Anmeldung:** register your address at the town hall (Bürgeramt) within the first few days; this certificate is essential for almost all procedures.
- **Bank account:** open a German account for rent, salary, and costs.
- **Insurance:** take out or activate your health insurance.
- **Internet and energy:** check what is included in the rent and subscribe to the rest.

6. Avoiding scams

- Never pay any money before viewing the housing and signing a contract.
- Be wary of an unreachable landlord, or one claiming to be abroad, who demands an immediate transfer.
- The security deposit is paid when the lease is signed, never for a simple viewing.
- Verify the address and identity of the landlord; if in doubt, ask us for advice.

How Campus Allemagne supports you

- Guidance toward the right platforms and solutions suited to your city.
- Help understanding contracts and costs.
- Support with arrival procedures: Anmeldung, bank account, first bearings.

A question about your housing or your arrival? Contact us.

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Indicative document. Housing conditions, costs, and procedures vary by city and change over time.

Campus Allemagne is a programme run by the KAGEDEV Cameroon National Representation, based in Douala-Bonamoussadi.